

## **Three Daily Goals**

The Lord willing, by the time you read these words, your pastor and his wife will be in Washington, D. C. Always know, no matter how far we are from you, we miss you and our hearts are with you. Colossians 2:5: "For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ."

I would like to share with you three daily goals, I attempt to maintain.

### **1. FIND A NEED AND FILL IT.**

This was my father's motto; and a good one it is! Ecclesiastes 9:10 comes to mind: "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest." Do what you can, while you can, for our Lord said, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4).

Today at Christchurch we have a perfect visual aid of my father's dream: to win and disciple people to do the work of God near and afar, even to the uttermost part of the earth. Standing before you today is Matthew Henry, the son-in-law of one of my father's greatest friends, the late Dr. G. R. Lorne. With encouragement from my dad, Matthew Henry came to America where he was lovingly instructed and coached by Dad. When Matthew came to America, he could not even speak English. My father led in the ordination of this great young preacher. Matthew returned to India and now, after all these many years, Matthew Henry has started 350 churches for the glory of God. Dad, along with Dr. Lorne, saw the need in India and decided "while it was yet day" they would fill the need for training national pastors to return to their homeland and do a lasting work.

### **2. FIND THE SECRET PLACE AND PRAY.**

There is a phrase in Luke 9:18a that captures my attention: "And it came to pass, as He was alone praying, His disciples were with him...." Do you notice the unusual wording? Christ was alone in prayer, yet His disciples were with Him. What a beautiful reminder that even in the busy day and even surrounded by people, you, like our Lord, may find the "secret place." Psalm 91:1: "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."

Often times I am surrounded by distractions and often times by good people. Even in the busiest hospitals, traffic jams and in between pressing appointments, I find that with little trouble, I may pull away from it all and find that secret place to retire and refresh. This is one of my daily goals.

### **3. FIND THE SAVIOR'S FACE AND FIXATE.**

The world's conception of seeking God is to get things from God. There is nothing wrong with asking for needs to be supplied, but the first and foremost desire of the Christian's heart should be to seek God's face, not His hand. The

Psalmist said in Psalm 27:8, "When thou saidst, Seek ye My face; my heart said unto Thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek." Oh how we need to seek the Giver before seeking the gifts!

After the Ark of the Covenant had been absconded by the wicked enemy and later lay in wait in the household of Obbedom, David led the procession that brought the Ark back to Zion's Hill. Upon bringing the Ark back home, which was the highest symbol of the manifested presence of the Lord, the challenge was given to all true worshippers in I Chronicles 16:11: "Seek the LORD and his strength, seek His face continually." David and the people of Israel missed God. In declaring that the LORD should be sought continually, they were saying, we have had enough of living peripherally with God; let's go deeper with our LORD and dwell there.

Jesus said in Luke 9:62, "...No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Jesus is saying that if we are looking back from following Him, we are not prepared for Kingdom living. We should be fixated, concentrated on, determined, without faltering to look to Jesus as we navigate through life. The key is found in these three words, "Looking unto Jesus..." (Hebrews 12:2). Today I was talking to a shepherd of sheep. He said, "You know, sheep do not see well, nor do they hear well." He continued, "And if there is a headstrong sheep that is ignoring the shepherd and wanders over a hill away from the flock, he is immediately lost. He cannot see his way and he cannot hear the voice of the shepherd. The only hope of protection and guidance is for the sheep to stay close enough to the shepherd to see his face and hear his voice. As God's sheep we must stay close enough to the Shepherd to see His face. This is our only hope of guidance and protection. This is my daily goal--to never take my eyes off Jesus and to always hear what He tells me.

Mrs. Pope and I look forward to seeing you all, Lord willing, Sunday, October 28. We love you!

-Pastor Pope-